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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 1916.

OREGON WEATHER

Fair tonight, Thursday and Friday, continued warm; north easterly winds.

INEFFICIENCY OF GOVERNMENT.

The nation daily hears the statement that Europe's war has saved us great industrial calamity that would have resulted from the operation of the Underwood tariff. Professors of economics tell their classes that the present state of affairs across the Atlantic is the same as a protective tariff in the effect on our rejuvenated industries which are called upon to furnish supplies to warring nations. The result is the same as if the tariff wall exists, despite a low tariff law enacted, so far as the prosperous conditions of the American industries are concerned, only so long as the war conditions prevail. Granting that by a wild gamble we might consider ourselves safe in trusting that the war will protect us for another four years, there is still another phase to be watched.

Tariff revenue is looked to by the government as the source of income to cover a large part of the current expenses. Any business man can tell you that the present law falls miserably in this regard; otherwise, why should he have to pay a federal tax on his telegrams, his telephone calls, his bonds or deeds? We have passed through a period of war taxes, with no war to cause them. Something has been amiss.

But the latest testimony is offered directly by the senate finance committee, whose painful duty it has been to report a supplementary revenue bill imposing special taxes designed to raise \$205,000,000. No democrat can deny that this results from the failure of the Underwood bill to provide sufficient revenue by that many millions. When the regular avenue is closed, special means are necessitated, and we are about to be saddled with more onerous taxes which might have been avoided. For instance, the new measure will tax every theater or place of amusement which seats 250, \$25, and upward in proportion. Mortgages are to pay fifty cents for every \$500 in amount, and steamship and Pullman tickets will bear special taxes.

Instances are on record indicating where this burden might have been shifted onto foreign shoulders, under a tariff embodying republican principles. When the lowered import rate, supposed to allow the consumer a lower price, is taken by the foreign manufacturer for his own gain, and the American consumer in turn has to dig in his pocket for that amount, once to the manufacturer and then to the government, we see an excellent example of what Mr. Hughes termed democratic inefficiency.

"America first and America efficient," is truly a campaign cry.

CHICAGO COOL COMPARED TO ATLANTIC STATES

Chicago, Aug. 23.—While New York City and eastern states broiled and sweltered today with the mercury above the 100 mark, Chicago was comparatively an iceberg. The highest temperature here today was 73 at 2 o'clock. However, the weather bureau predicted that it will be made up for tomorrow, when a return of the heat wave is due.

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CULTURE OF SUGAR BEETS

By H. W. WILEY.

Fertilization

Happily, in most American soils there is still sufficient natural fertility to produce a good crop of sugar beets; whereas in the soils of Europe, where sugar beets have been grown for years, the farmers must depend on fertilizers to insure a remunerative crop.

The principles of fertilization depend upon the fact that a soil should have returned to it all the harvest has removed, and an unproductive soil must be supplied with those elements in which it is deficient.

The soil ingredients most essential for the successful production of sugar beets are nitrogen, phosphoric acid, potash, and lime.

The following are the quantities of these constituents in 1,000 pounds of beet roots and in an equal quantity of beet leaves, as determined by numerous analyses:

	In 1,000 lbs. of roots	In 1,000 lbs. of leaves
Potash	3.3	6.5
Phosphoric acid	0.8	1.3
Nitrogen	1.6	3.9
Total ash	7.1	18.1

It will be seen from the foregoing table that, for equal weights, the leaves make a heavier drain on the plant-food elements of the soil than do the roots. The disposition to be made of the leaves is therefore a matter of considerable importance. By leaving them on the land the plant-food elements which they contain will be returned to the soil. If they are removed for feeding, the need for applications of commercial fertilizers is increased. The leaves may, however, be fed and the resulting manure may be returned to the soil without material loss of these fertilizing constituents; or in some cases stock may be turned into the beet fields to feed on the tops and leaves remaining on the ground after the harvest is completed.

Most soils contain a sufficient quantity of lime, although there are some in which the supply of lime is naturally deficient; and such soils would be benefited by an application of land plaster, burned lime, phosphatic slags, or ground shells. Phosphoric acid and potash are supplied in the form of ordinary commercial fertilizers—the phosphorus as ground bone, superphosphate, or basic slag, and the potash may be supplied in the form of muriate or sulphate of potash or as kainit.

Nitrogen may be supplied in the form in which it exists in ground bone, or from the refuse of the slaughter houses in the form of dried blood and tankage, or as cotton-seed meal or oil cake, or as nitrate of soda, sulphate of ammonia, etc.

Barn yard manure offers a ready means for fertilizing the soil, and one which every farmer can employ. By its use humus is added to the soil as well as small percentages of potash, phosphoric acid, and nitrogen. There is a great difference of opinion as to the best time and method for applying it to beet land. In general, however, it should be applied, in a well-rotted condition, in the autumn before the ground is plowed. The quantity per acre depends, of course, on the fertility of the soil; but in any case it is not best to apply a very heavy dressing. With poor soils it is best to apply the manure for several years in succession, rather than to apply enough at once to bring it up to the required state of fertility. Too copious an application of manure is apt to produce overgrowth in the beets, which makes them ill suited to the manufacture of sugar. If the manure be applied in an unrotted condition it is apt to seriously injure the crop in case of dry weather.

Too Precious.

A fat, middle aged widower took a young girl graduate's hand in his and said timidly:

"Your mother, my dear Alice, has given her consent, and I—"

But the girl snatched her hand away.

"No," she said. "It can never be. My respect for you is great, Mr. Prendergast, and I will be a sister to you."

"No, you won't, either. You'll be a daughter to me. I'm going to marry your mother!"—Washington Star

Envelopes printed at the Courier

MAY TAKE UP STRIKE

(Continued from Page 1)

part, are working now to find a way to accept the eight-hour day and at the same time "preserve the principle of arbitration" for the future.

Fighting to the last against abandoning what they term the "final barrier against labor aggression," they have asked President Wilson for some concrete proposition for avoiding recurring labor differences.

Apparently convinced that settlement now must be worked out on President Wilson's fundamental proposal, the roads are trying to "save as much as possible from the wreckage," and they want protection against further strikes and some assurances of increased revenue to meet the added expense which they claim would ensue from the granting of the eight-hour day.

Today is the first time President Wilson has called in any congressional leaders on the situation.

While congress generally and individually has held aloof to give the president unhampered rein in his attempts to bring the representatives of 400,000 trainmen and 225 railroads together, members have said that should congress be asked to take a hand the interstate commerce subcommittee would be the body before which the matter first would be aired. There is a chance that Senator Newlands and other congressional leaders may decide to press the bill he recently introduced, directing the interstate commerce commission to investigate and report as soon as practicable the minimum, maximum and average wage paid, with hours of service to each class of railroad employees.

COST OF LIVING IS ONE-FOURTH HIGHER

Chicago, Aug. 23.—The high cost of living has soared again and a comparison of prices of foodstuffs with the prices of a year ago, shows that there has been an increase of 25 percent.

With hogs selling at the highest price—\$11.30 a hundred pounds—since 1865, and predictions by provision men that it will go to \$12.00 next month, there was a general increase in other living necessities which will cost Mr. Average Man a quarter more on each dollar he spends.

Pork prices were up today considerably. Pork, used in baked beans was quoted at 22 cents a pound, an increase of five cents. Pork chops were up to 24 cents a pound, 25 percent over a year ago's prices. Baked ham sold for 30 cents, an advance of six cents.

Beans, sold at five cents a pound one year ago, cost 11 cents today. Canned baked beans have increased from 10 to 15 cents a pound.

Loop prices, which are 25 percent under neighborhood prices, have jumped on peas, lettuce, potatoes and string beans. Milk now sells for nine cents a quart.

Flour continues to gain. It is now selling for 8 1/2 cents a pound, as compared with 7 cents a year ago. The wholesale price of flour today was \$5.50. As yet there has been no increase in bread prices here.

Eureka, Cal., Aug. 23.—The heaviest earthquake shock since 1906 was felt in this city this morning. The trembler was also reported from different sections of northern Humboldt county, but was not recorded at Petrolia, eighty miles south of here. The quake caused no damage here.

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NORTHWEST PHENOM GOES EAST

Portland, Aug. 23.—Guisto, Portland first baseman, will probably leave for Cleveland on Friday to crash into the big show. This was the statement today of Bill Rodgers, field captain of the Beavers. Rodgers also said that Ivan Howard, the new first baseman, is expected here tomorrow.

Portland, Aug. 23.—Shiraleeves were popular in Portland today, when the mercury began hitting the high spots with even more zest than yesterday. The quicksilver's "farthest north" so far is 82 degrees.

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